

2019 General Service Conference

Agenda Topic Summaries

CNCA Area 06

Pre-Conference Assembly

April 13-14, 2019

Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building

Santa Rosa, CA

Disclosures:

The materials in this document are only summaries of the background. Information presented in the summaries is carefully distilled or extracted to be concise and provide enough information so that all districts and members in CNCA can fully participate. For more information on any particular item(s), please contact your DCM or DCMC to obtain full background information.

Please do not consider the summaries opinions of the CNCA officers. Only the section on “What the Delegate needs to know” is personally from our Delegate.

This includes background for the 69th General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential AA document; Distribution is limited to AA members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Websites (including social media pages) available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members.

A Message from Your Delegate

On the next page of this document you will find the **Theme, and the Presentation/Discussion and Workshop Topics** for the 69th General Service Conference. While we don't hear "group consciences" on these, please consider using them for discussions in your groups and districts. We will also have some time for sharing on the Conference Theme at the Pre-Conference Assembly.

The rest of this document contains the **Agenda Topics Summaries** of the background information for all of the items to be considered by the thirteen conference committees of the 69th General Service Conference. The topics will be discussed by each committee, which **may** or **may not** send them to the whole Conference for consideration. Please note that *not all topics* will be presented to the Conference, or even resolved in committee.

The **purpose** of these summaries is so that they may be used as a tool by General Service Representatives (GSRs) to provide their group with pertinent information to facilitate an informed group conscience and then to convey that group conscience to the Delegate. These summaries may also be used by other members of our fellowship to communicate good information about the Agenda Topics and, where appropriate, to convey opinions to the Delegate.

Many of the Agenda Topics are for that particular committee (such as reviewing a progress report in the development of a piece of literature) and do not require a group conscience. Other topics appear every year, such as reviewing workbooks and kits used by Public Information, Corrections, etc. If your group is interested in these, ask your local committee to share their experience or request copies from your literature chair. Please pay special attention in these summaries to the section: **What the Delegate needs to know**, at the end of each topic.

I received the **background** documents for *all* 13 committees on February 15. While this material is primarily intended for the Delegate's use, in order to provide context of the spiritual intent and to assist GSRs in obtaining *informed* group consciences, I have given each DCMC access to the complete background material. This year, background information will be available in Spanish and French by March 1. Please remember to **treat the background as confidential**.

I will be serving on the **Treatment and Accessibilities Committee** and also the **International Conventions and Regional Forums Committee**. Please bear in mind that I will have the opportunity to discuss the agenda topics for those committees in depth during my committee meetings.

I look forward to hearing your group consciences at the Pre-Conference Assembly in Santa Rosa. Remember, **trust the process**—and enjoy it too!

In love and service,

Teddy B.W., Panel 69 Delegate

California Northern Coastal Area 06

February 22, 2019

Conference Theme, Presentation and Workshop Topics

The theme of the 69th General Service Conference is:

“Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages”

The Presentation/Discussion topics will include:

- a. Yesterday’s World – Our Legacies Begin
- b. Today’s World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service
- c. Tomorrow’s World – Courage to be Vigilant

The Workshop Topic will be:

Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings

These are wonderful basic AA topics that can be talked about and discussed throughout the Fellowship, in assemblies, districts, intergroups/central office gatherings, and in groups.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme of the 2020 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The theme of the conference and the presentation topics revolve around the basic principles of AA; these suggestions can provoke a stimulating discussion at Area and District meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts often incorporate the theme of the Conference in discussions, giving members of AA an opportunity to participate and be more informed about AA. The eighty-eight suggested themes for the 2020 Conference are included in the background material. They were presented by the fellowship as possible themes, and arrived in response to requests for theme topics sent in August 2018 by the Conference coordinator on behalf of the Agenda Committee In the background, one can also find a list with the themes of every Conference between 1951 and 2019.
What does the Delegate need to know?	From this list of suggestions, which theme or themes for the 2020 General Service Conference would your group like to see as the theme next year? Why?

Conference Committee: **Agenda— Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The eighty-four presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference are listed in the background material. These were presented by the Fellowship as potential presentation and discussion topics for the Conference as a result of a request in August 2018 for presentation/discussion topics sent by the Conference Coordinator on behalf of the Agenda Committee. In the background, one can also find a list with the presentations and discussion topics of every Conference between 1985 and 2019.
What does the Delegate need to know?	From this list of suggestions, which presentations and discussion topics for the 2020 General Service Conference would your group like to see as presentations and discussion topics next year? Why?

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The seventy-nine workshop topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference are listed in the background material. These were presented by the Fellowship as potential workshop topics for the Conference as a result of a request in August 2018 for workshop topics sent by the Conference Coordinator on behalf of the Agenda Committee. In the background, one can also find a list with the workshop topics of every Conference between 1985 and 2019.
What does the Delegate need to know?	From this list of suggestions, which workshop topics for the 2020 General Service Conference would your group like to see as the workshop topics next year? Why?

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, process and 2018 Evaluation Summary.
Historical Context; Why	In 2018, this committee reviewed the 2017 General Service Conference evaluations and

is it on the Agenda?	noted that there were a low number of respondents, and the committee strongly emphasized that all Conference members have an obligation to fill out the form so that useful decisions for improvement of the Conference can be made. A new evaluation form, with new questions related to the dashboard, electronic evaluations, and the electronic Conference manual, are in this year's evaluation form, which is in the background. A summary of results from the 2018 evaluation form is also in the background and is generally positive about the 2018 Conference.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018, the Conference Agenda committee reviewed a report on the Conference Agenda Process and noted some progress that had been made in implementing a plan that enhances the General Service Conference agenda review and selection process, providing the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process. Starting in January 2019, Conference committee members get a verbal disposition of items submitted to the trustee's committee and can give feedback on proposed Agenda items. The background material includes a report on the implementation and effectiveness of the conference agenda process (including sharing from 2019 Conference committee chairs) and suggestions for the January conference calls with members of Conference committees.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about Conference committee members participating in conference calls regarding proposed Agenda items prior to the Conference?

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss progress on implementation of AAWS LinkedIn page.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<i>Advisory Action from the 2018 General Service Conference on Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC):</i> AA World Services, Inc. develop a company page on LinkedIn with the following goals in mind: • To offer another digital resource, in addition to www.aa.org, where professionals can find accurate information about AA • To broaden the reach of the <i>About AA</i> newsletter for professionals • To offer a platform where our professional friends may recommend us • To raise awareness of exhibits staffed by local CPC committees at national and local professional conferences • To expand the network of our professional friends and perhaps deepen the pool of Class A Trustee candidates • By our presence on LinkedIn, to reinforce the continuing relevance and efficacy of AA to professionals An additional Committee consideration from the 2018 Conference Committee on CPC

	strongly suggested that those creating the LinkedIn company page consider adding some kind of disclaimer or explanation clarifying that AA is not affiliated with any of the organizations who appear in promoted content on the LinkedIn company page. The trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/ Treatment and Accessibilities (CPC/TA) discussed these items and asked the secretary to work with a consultant on the creation of a LinkedIn page. The consultant (Impact Collaborative) completed Communications Audit last year, and suggested that the LinkedIn page address what AA is, how it works, why anonymous, who AA works with, and where one can find AA. They also provided a draft description for the LinkedIn page that would invite professionals to learn more about AA using language that is familiar to that audience (using examples from other organizations). That draft page description is in the full background material, along with highlights from trustees' CPC/TA reports concerning LinkedIn, more details on the work of the consultant, and the trustees' committee responses to the consultant's questions and recommendations. The consultant's recommendations include: • Give a basic definition of what anonymity is and how that helps the client • Leave out a contact phone number and only use a link to the professionals' page • Use non- AA terminology in describing how AA works that are familiar to professionals • Use AA and Alcoholics Anonymous as the page name, with a reference to AAWS as the page owner • Use a logo/image that reflects a message that AA is clear, consistent, skilled, competent and qualified to be doing what it does; and to not use the blue people logo, which is not widely recognized outside of the website and does not send this message • Use materials that professionals can benefit from; it is beyond the scope, and not audience-specific, to highlight the Big Book or Twelve & Twelve (for example) • Focus on using positive language that invites and gets people interested, so they will want to learn more. Be careful using phrasing surrounding "what AA does not do" because it is not inviting and can be off-putting • Include audience page testing in the roll out plan – and invite a group of professionals from a wide cross-section of backgrounds to review and discuss the page
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group or committee think about the consultant's recommendations for an AAWS LinkedIn page? How can we better reach out to professionals in this way?

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to remove text "They may help arrange hospitalization" from the pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request comes from Area 03 (Arizona), whose CPC Committee reviewed Pamphlet P-31 and brought a motion to their Area assembly, which passed the recommendation with substantial unanimity. On page 4 of the pamphlet, item number 3 in the section "What can you expect from AA?" they are recommending that the first sentence "They may help arrange hospitalization" be removed. The reasoning behind the request is that the members find the word "they" to be ambiguous (does it refer to an individual member or AA as a whole?) when the other three items in the section clearly say "AA members..." There was also some concern that those considering AA might assume that they would be hospitalized, or have expectations that AA would find treatment for them

	and pay the cost. In addition to the letter from the Panel 66 Area 03 Delegate, the background includes a link to the pamphlet where you can review the section in full context: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-31_AAinyourcommunity.pdf
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is your group in favor of removing this sentence from the “Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community” pamphlet? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of CPC Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and Workbooks for CPC, Corrections, Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference (GSC). Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees’ Committee and implemented. Alternatively, the trustees’ Committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review. Members of the Conference Committee then have an opportunity to review proposed changes to a Workbook or Kit during the next GSC. Note: Workbooks and Kits are service pieces, and suggested changes to their content do not become recommendations. Rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations. 2018 updates to the CPC Workbook included the guide letter samples, a suggestion for contacting military bases and veterans’ facilities in addition to military and veteran affairs professionals whenever possible, and removing text “Let’s Be Friendly With Our Friends: Friends on the Alcoholism Front.” Other Kit updates were to include the most recently updated versions of materials already included in the Kit. The CPC Committee Workbook is contained in the Kit and can also be ordered separately. The content list of the CPC Kit <www.aa.org/cpckit> is available on GSO’s website and includes links to digital versions of many items, including the Workbook: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/aa-literature/m-41i-cooperation-with-the-professional-community-workbook
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any suggestions about items that should be added to or updated in the CPC Workbook or Kit?

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider request for a review of all corrections related literature in order to make the language more modern and inclusive.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A motion from Area79 (British Columbia/ Yukon) requested that the Corrections Committee undertake a review of all corrections-related literature in order to make the language more modern and inclusive. The background from that Area states that they feel terms like inmate and offender are offensive, which prevents volunteers in their Area who attend these meetings from bringing in and distributing literature such as <i>It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell</i> , <i>AA In Prison: Inmate to Inmate</i> , and <i>Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic</i> . They feel using different language to describe AA members in correctional facilities may allow this literature to be used more for its intended purpose.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that reviewing and changing the language in this literature is necessary? Why or why not? Does your group have any specific suggestions on the language used or that might be used?

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider request that the General Service Office establish and help maintain a database of Correctional Facilities in each service area in the U.S. and Canada and the status of meetings held therein.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A request that GSO establish and maintain a database of Correctional Facilities in each Area and the status of those meetings came from the Area 48 (Hudson/Mohawk/Berkshire New York) Corrections Chair and Delegate. The purpose of this database, as outlined in the request, would be to provide incoming Area Corrections Chairs ready access to information regarding where focus is needed to carry the message into facilities, to provide data to Areas and Districts conducting inventories, and to help GSO be of service in efforts to carry the message into Correctional Facilities. The Conference Committee on Corrections provided an informal estimate from a professional web developer ranging from \$25-30,000 for a solo or small development team or \$50-60,000 for an agency to work on this project. A bid could include developing the database, receiving feedback, making minor changes after feedback, and support following a potential launch.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that there is a need for this database? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review Corrections Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee reviews the Corrections Kit https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-68w_corrections_kit.pdf and the Corrections Workbook https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/aa-literature/m-45i-corrections-workbook contained in the kit, yearly. Outdated information may be updated and removed by staff, who then report changes to the trustees' Committee on Corrections and to the Corrections Committee at the General Service Conference. Most of what is included in the Corrections Kit is available for download from the AA.org website. Any changes to the kit are discussed in the committee as Additional Committee Considerations.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have suggestions regarding materials that should be added to or deleted from the Kit or any suggestions in respect to the Workbook?

Conference Committee: **Finance — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.			
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The suggested Area contribution for delegates’ expenses to the Conference is now reviewed every other year. This was approved in 2017 when the following advisory action was approved: “Review of the suggested Area contribution for delegates’ expenses to the Conference be every other year.	Conference Area Delegate Fees		
			Current	New
		1969		\$150
		1974	\$150	\$200
		1978	\$200	\$300

	The next review will take place in 2019.” The chart shows the history of changes to the suggested Area contribution for delegates’ expenses to the Conference. The actual pro-rated cost of the Conference per delegate has, in recent years ranged between approximately \$6,000 - \$8,000 and this year is estimated to be \$8,300.	1984	\$300	\$400
		1989	\$400	\$600
		1997	\$600	\$800
		2005	\$800	\$1200
		2012	\$1200	\$1600
		2017	\$1600	\$1800
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the suggested Area contribution for delegates’ expenses to the Conference should be raised? If so, why and to what amount? If not, why not?			

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review the Conference-approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from AA members.		
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The maximum bequest from an AA member to the General Service Board has been reviewed periodically in the past and in 2017 the following Advisory Action was passed: “Review of the Conference-approved level for bequests to the General Service Board from AA members be every other year. The new review will take place in 2019.” The chart shows the history of changes of the maximum limits of individual bequests to the General Service Board.	Individual Bequest Limits	
			Current New
		1967	\$100 \$200
		1972	\$200 \$300
		1979	\$300 \$500
		1986	\$500 \$1000
		1999	\$1000 \$2000
		2007	\$2000 \$3000
		2012	\$3000 \$5000
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the maximum should be raised or decreased? If so, why and to what amount? If not, why not? How is does this align with our 7 th Tradition?		

Conference Committee: **Finance — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual AA member.		
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The maximum amount that an individual AA member may give to the General Service Board in any one year has been reviewed periodically in the past and in 2017 the following Advisory Action was passed: “Review of the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual AA member be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.” The chart shows the history of changes of the maximum annual contribution limits to the General Service Board	Annual Contribution Limits	
			Current New
		1967	\$100 \$200
		1972	\$200 \$300
		1979	\$300 \$500
		1986	\$500 \$1000
		1999	\$1000 \$2000
		2007	\$2000 \$3000

	from individual AA members.	2018	\$3000	\$5000
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the maximum should be raised or decreased? If so, why and to what amount? If not, why not? How does this align with our 7 th Tradition?			

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review Self-Support Packet.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Self-Support Packet is reviewed by the Finance Committee at each General Service Conference. The contents of the kit are: Self-Support Card F-42 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix (F-3) The AA Group Treasurer (F-96) AA Guidelines on Finance (MG-15) Services Provided by GSO/AAWS Flyer (SMF-176) Historical Background of Self Support Flyer (F-19) Your Seventh Tradition Contributions Flyer (F-203)
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think the Self-Support Kit contains the right amount of information? If not, what should be added or removed?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2020 and later.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year (since 2002), the Conference Committee on the Grapevine has reviewed a list of proposed AA Grapevine book topics to provide guidance in advance of possible publication. Suggested books (and working titles) for 2020 or later include: • The Early Days of AA, that would include stories from AA members from the 1930s, 40s and 50s • Getting Involved in General Service, that would include stories by AA members who got involved in service below the group • Surrender and Hope (La Viña book), that would include stories from Spanish-speaking members about how they came to join AA. The background includes details such as approximate pages, production cost, and the sale price of each book. There is also a list of previously approved book titles.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about publishing books on these topics? Why? Does your group feel there is a need for books on these topics? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to remove the “Alcoholism at Large” section from AA Grapevine.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The “Alcoholism at Large” section in the AA Grapevine, sometimes referred to as the “Gray Pages,” is a one-page section near the back of the magazine that includes articles on medical, legal, and social aspects of alcoholism. Articles about alcoholism research

	and treatment have appeared in the magazine since 1946, with the “Gray Pages” first debuting (and called “About Alcoholism”) as a permanent section in 1966. This section has, at times, been the focus of discussion, but the Conference reaffirmed the decision to publish the section in 1974 and again in 1984. In 1991, the section was discontinued, a decision that was revisited (and reversed) in 2007, when the now-titled “Alcoholism at Large” section was introduced. In 2008, 2009, and 2014, new requests to discontinue the section were not approved by the Conference. This new request, originating in Tennessee, suggests that the section falls into the realm of ‘outside issues.’ Background information notes that the Grapevine was intended to “reflect AA and nothing but AA,” and that the magazine is meant to communicate “current AA experience with recovery, unity and service.” The background material includes several articles in the “Alcoholism at Large” section excerpted from medical journals, including one study on the use of MDMA (also known as ecstasy) to treat alcohol addiction and another regarding the links between heavy drinking and dementia. The Grapevine charter states that the duties of the AA Grapevine are “to prepare, edit, print and publish... written material concerning generally the subject of alcoholism and related matters and dealing with the various means, methods, techniques and procedures available or proposed for the treatment, relief, rehabilitation and recovery of persons suffering from or potentially subject to alcoholism.” And in a letter regarding potential incorporation for the AA Grapevine, Bill W. wrote that “The Grapevine should have freedom to print news articles relative to the whole field of alcoholism, excepting, however, those which might provoke needless dissension.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	Should the “Alcoholism at Large” section be removed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018, the Conference Committee on the Grapevine reviewed the Grapevine workbook and asked for a progress report on potential revisions be presented at the Conference this year. Revisions are being worked on by a freelancer who is familiar with the history, procedures and products of AA Grapevine, Inc. The current workbook is available online at www.aagrapevine.org
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey and summary.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018, the Grapevine Board undertook a study of current, past, and non-subscribers to Grapevine and La Viña. 4,568 people completed the survey, including people who did not subscribe to either magazine. A summary of the data from the study suggests many people like the magazines’ appearance and the variety of stories, and most subscribers felt that the price is “about right or a bargain.” But some survey respondents noted that they would like content aimed at reaching younger members and members with long-term sobriety. There was confusion about how the magazines are funded – and there was a desire for a simpler subscription model. Several people expressed concerns about the digital experience, and others identified opportunities to improve the relevance of the

	magazines as important personal recovery tools.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the Grapevine and/or La Viña? What does your group like, and what would they like to see improved?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the development of the pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in AA.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This pamphlet was approved by the Conference last year and this item is principally for the Conference Literature Committee to receive an update on how things are going. Review of the 59 stories received and selection will begin in July. To assist in this process, a member of AA who is bilingual in English and Spanish will serve as an appointed committee member (ACM) on the trustees' Literature Committee.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the development of the pamphlet on AA's Three Legacies.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This pamphlet was approved by the Conference last year and this item is principally for the Conference Literature Committee to receive an update on how things are going. Review of the 46 stories received and selection of other content for the pamphlet has begun.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The first edition was published in 1939, the 2 nd in 1955, the 3 rd in 1976 and the 4 th in 2001. Letters from four Areas; two in the Southwest, one in the Midwest, and another from the East Coast, form the background. All request a fifth edition; one on the basis that it's time, two to update the stories to better reflect the changes in the composition of the fellowship over the past 17 years, and one to add a fourth section to the stories consisting of stories written by members who got sober before the age of 25.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel there is a need for a fifth edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> ? If so, why? If not, why not? What does your group think about the current selection of stories? Are there any that should be retired? If so, why? Should any other changes be made? If so, what changes and why? If not, why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding updating the video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure."
--------------	--

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This video was approved by the Conference last year and this item is on the agenda for the Conference Literature Committee to receive an update on progress being made. Currently, work is underway to select a suitable vendor to produce the video.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the update regarding text on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This revision to the pamphlet was approved by the Conference last year and this item is on the agenda for the Conference Literature Committee to receive an update on progress being made. The trustees’ Literature Committee has been working on this and found several places where language explaining anonymity would be helpful. The Conference Literature Committee will be reviewing those suggestions.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Consider the development of a Literature Committee Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The request is based on a wish for Literature Committees to have a place where experience can be shared. Currently, Literature chairs receive a welcome letter from GSO attaching a catalog, guidelines, list of service material, the service piece about Conference Approved Literature, the pamphlet: <i>The AA Group</i> and the current issue of <i>Box 459</i> , together with a request that, wherever possible, orders be placed through local intergroup or central offices.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think a Literature Committee Workbook is needed? If so, why? If not, why not? Does your group have a bulk subscription to Box 459? <i>Many AA groups purchase bulk subscriptions to Box 459 (\$6 per year for 10 copies) for distribution to their members, thus providing them regular communication with AA in the U.S., Canada and countries throughout the world. Subscribe here:</i> https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-37_box-459_orderform.pdf

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Too Young?”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This revision to the pamphlet was approved by the Conference last year and this item is on the agenda for the Conference Literature Committee to receive an update on progress being made. The trustees committee has been looking into and evaluating different approaches to both ‘Tweens’ and ‘Teenagers’ along with the utilization of video as well as print.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Young People and AA”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This revision to the pamphlet was approved by the Conference last year and this item is on the agenda for the Conference Literature Committee to receive an update on progress being made. Stories were solicited and between five and 10 are being edited down into smaller “bite-sized” excerpts to fit into a three-section format: What It Was Like, What Happened, and What It Is Like Now.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item I**

Agenda Topic	Review proposed revision to AA World Services’ “Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other AA Materials.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	AA has a “Policy on the Publication of Literature” that states all changes require Conference approval excepting “editorial changes” – (1) correction of typographical errors and errors of grammar or syntax, (2) correction of erroneous statements of fact, (3) updating of historical and statistical information, and (4) corrections of cross references to other material necessitated by changes in such other material – that can be made by the publishing department of AA World Services Inc. The Managing Editor at AA World Services, Inc., has written a memo that states that editorial changes to our core literature (books) occur only occasionally, but our pamphlets become quickly dated and behind the times, leading to the perception that AA is out of touch to members, the public, and professionals. This aligns with comments in the Communications Audit presented to the General Service Board that states, “There are significant challenges in communications that are negatively impacting AA’s relevance...” The suggested revision preserves the existing policy as it relates to <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age</i>, <i>As Bill Sees It</i>, <i>Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers</i>, <i>Pass It On</i>, and <i>Our Great Responsibility</i>, but provides greater flexibility to the publishing department to edit everything else in terms of format, languages into which it is translated, and illustrations, photos and graphics, guided by these criteria: a. audience to whom the text is directed; b. use of outdated language, jargon, references; c. availability of current science; d. focus on diversity and inclusivity; e. ongoing contextual relevance of AA historical data.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of the revisions to the policy? Are they needed? Will they improve or inhibit our ability to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, and why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item J**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to revise the pamphlet “The AA Group.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a proposal to add the following question to the list of questions for group inventory:

	“Do you feel safe coming to the group? Are the group’s members treated with respect?” The pamphlet can be found here: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-16_theaagroup.pdf and the list of group inventory questions can be found on pages 29 and 30.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about adding this question? Is it needed? Will addition of the question help carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers? Is so, why? If not, why not? When was the last time your group conducted a group inventory?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item K**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding the update to the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This revision to the pamphlet was an additional committee consideration last year and this item is on the agenda for the Conference Literature Committee to receive an update on progress being made. Meantime, an Area has sent a proposal for a specific revision to the pamphlet to address anonymity breaks on the internet.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item L**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding language on safety and AA for inclusion in <i>Living Sober</i> and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The revisions stem from an additional committee consideration last year and this item is on the agenda for the Conference Literature Committee to receive an update on progress being made. Additional guidance is sought from the Conference Literature Committee on the scope of the revisions.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item M**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the Foreword to the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The proposal is to add (after the descriptions of the Steps and Traditions) a description of the Concepts to the Foreword of <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, the description to be the following statement, or something similar: “AA’s Twelve Concepts are an interpretation of AA’s world service structure. The Concepts provide guidelines for carrying the message to thousands of suffering alcoholics yet to come. They aim to record the “why” of our service structure. They may be found in <i>The AA Service Manual</i> combined with <i>Twelve Concepts for World Service</i>.” In the words of the proposer, “As currently worded, it seems the forward reflects an incomplete triangle, and only 2/3s of our program. This simple reference would encourage members to expand their study to include the Twelve Concepts, and thereby to complete the triangle.” Note: a 2002 Conference decision states that Bill’s writings be retained as originally published.

What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that this addition to the Foreword is needed? Is so, why? If not, why not? Will it help to increase participation in service or not?
--------------------------------------	--

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item N**

Agenda Topic	Consider suggestion to add “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers” to the end of the open meeting side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The suggested addition is designed to make the card consistent with the language found in the pamphlet <i>The AA Group</i> and the intent is to minimize any confusion. The card can be found here: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-17_primarypurposestatementcard.pdf
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the addition to the card is needed? If so, why? If not, why not? Is the card confusing without this language and will this addition reduce confusion?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item O**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to update the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The request comes from the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (CPC/TA), which reviewed literature through the lens of supporting efforts to carry the message to AA members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. The request is to capture simplified language that reflects the meaning of the Steps more effectively than the current version and that includes quality illustrations. The intent is to do this without losing the powerful meaning of our steps/message, but in a way that is accessible to more individuals with low reading levels. You can view the current pamphlet here: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-55_twelvestepsillustrated.pdf
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that this change is needed? If so, why? If not, why not? Will the simplification of the pamphlet help us carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item P**

Agenda Topic	Review matrix of AA recovery literature.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The matrix is designed as a tool for the trustees’ and Conference literature committees, containing pertinent information to inform periodic review. It contains data that may be of interest to your group, such as quantities of literature published over the past 5 years and downloaded in 2017.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review dates for the 2022 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Each year, the dates for the General Service Conference three years from now are selected. This committee reviews and recommends the dates to the Conference members for approval, with holidays and other relevant dates considered. The dates under

	consideration for 2022 are: Sunday, April 24 to Saturday, April 30, 2022 (first choice), and Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2022 (second choice).
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review report from GSO's general manager on General Service Conference site selection.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In May 2018 the General Service Office began a Request for Information/Request for Proposal (RFI/RFP) process to determine whether there were more venues than the two currently in use (for the past 25-plus years) for consideration to hold the General Service Conference in such venues. The main reasons for seeking bids for new venues are cost and proximity to major travel hubs (JFK and La Guardia airports, respectively). GSO Management has contracted a consultant to reach out to hotels in New York City, Westchester County, Long Island, Connecticut and New Jersey.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider a process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee agreed to forward a final process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee to the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee for consideration. The committee requested staff develop a workflow diagram of the process. Currently, the General Service Board has welcomed the chairpersons of Conference committees and the delegate chairperson at the quarterly Board Weekend prior to the General Service Conference. All Conference committee chairs are given a complete set of background for the corresponding Trustee Committee meeting at the January Board Weekend. The newly proposed process includes sharing “items not forwarded to conference committees” with the respective conference committee for review. Background material notes that this is not so that the committee takes appropriate action, just to facilitate transparency between the trustees/conference committees. This would allow delegates to make decisions based on background information. Additionally, a line would be added to each Conference Committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure describing the new annual process to review agenda items not forwarded.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about this proposed process? Does your group feel that there is a better way?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the process of approving qualified representatives from other AA service structures to observe the U.S. and Canada General Service Conference.
--------------	---

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Since the mid-1950s, the General Service Conference (GSC) has welcomed AA members from other countries as guest observers at the General Service Conference. Currently, requests to observe the GSC are received by the Conference secretary and reviewed by the trustees' Committee on the GSC, which then makes a recommendation to the General Service Board. Then, the request is either approved or declined by the Conference Admissions Committee. A letter sent by Area 25 (Kansas), requested that we discuss the process, because the current status quo leaves applicants waiting until the opening session of the Conference to learn for certain that they have been approved.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think are the pros and cons of the current process? Does your group think there are possible alternative methods to approving Conference observers?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a request to “develop a procedure to deal with special requests/agenda items.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In February 2018 the Policy/Admissions Committee received a request to allow two employees of Impact Collaborative to attend the Conference as observers; this was part of the communication audit. Some members of the Policy/Admissions committee felt that this request sidestepped the Agenda item selection process and requested that special requests (such as approving non-AA members to attend the Conference) should have their own procedure.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that special requests such as this need their own procedure? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	After the 2018 Conference, some delegates expressed concern with the polling process. They felt that the current polling process allows for no discussion before the vote. They proposed that the poll includes time for discussion prior to voting. Current practice is that Conference members are polled between Conferences. The poll can be used instead of waiting until the next Conference, and can include urgent or time-sensitive matters, matters of principle or basic policy, or a GSB bylaws amendment. The polling was meant to expedite some of the agenda items that require less direct discussion. However delegates from the West Central Region felt that the lack of opportunities for discussion were incongruent with the Conference Charter and Concept 12, Warranty 4.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the current polling process is sufficient, or does it need to include opportunities for Conference members to discuss “emergency” items? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Reconsider the 1986 Advisory Action regarding a simple majority vote by the full Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 1986, the Conference Report and Charter Committee recommended that “if a committee recommendation does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a suggestion and be duly noted in the Conference Report.” A vote that receives a simple majority (but fails to receive two-thirds) is now considered a “strong suggestion” rather than an advisory action. Generally, these end up in the Additional Committee Considerations portion of the Final Conference Report. There is minimal information about how the GSB actually handles the strong suggestions, but the Board can freely implement “strong suggestions” per their right of decision. In short, the Board is not currently following the advisory action.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think a simple majority vote should result in a “strong suggestion”? Why or why not? Should the board go back to following the advisory action or should the Conference rescind it?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review 2018 annual reports from the trustees’ Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Approximately 431 emails were received through the online Website Feedback Form in 2018. GSO’s Website Committee reviewed this feedback, as well as comments on the website from other sources. 12 people requested Twelfth-Step help; 55 either requested help finding a meeting or commented on difficulty finding a meeting through the site; 40 commented on website function; 20 responded to technical errors; 10 requested the Daily Reflections; 18 requested customer service; 18 had questions about contributions; and three had questions about eBooks. Additional request went to Grapevine, Service Committees and junk mail. Each person writing through the Website Feedback Form was sent a response.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group know that there is an online website, and that Approximately 431 emails were received through the online Website Feedback Form in 2018? Does your group know that group, personal and birthday contributions can be made online? Do members of your group have experience asking questions via the website, and what was their experience?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review a report regarding the 2019 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Each year the trustees’ Public Information Committee will update this document regarding suggested items for action in the upcoming calendar year, and items for consideration in the following year. Feedback from the fellowship is sought on the following suggestions to carry the message online and in social media: • Continue exploration of social media/networking platforms that emerge; • Develop ideas on the use of Quick Response (QR) codes; a video on anonymity online; and a daily text message; • Explore the development of service material to address frequently asked questions about anonymity and the feasibility of a wallet card or bookmark addressing anonymity online and on social media;

	- Continue to inventory PI resources for their usefulness and ease of use by local PI committees; - Explore non-TV based video PSA alternatives.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What are the pros and cons of these suggestions? Could they be more efficient if combined with other methods? Do they support or undermine any of AA's Twelve Traditions?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item C1**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the distribution and tracking information for the video PSA “Changes.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Conference Committee on Public Information annually assesses the distribution of television public service announcement.
What does the Delegate need to know?	As only the committee gets to review the script, we will not hear group consciences on this item. Does your group know that all PSAs are available online? To view our current video PSAs, go to: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item C2**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the 2018 Report on the Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Per an advisory action in 2008: The Conference Committee on Public Information annually reviews current television public service announcements (PSAs) for relevance and usefulness, retiring a PSA only when it is no longer relevant and/or useful to the Fellowship. The Conference Committee on Public Information annually assesses the need for new television public service announcements.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group agree with the assessment that our current public PSAs (excepting ‘My World’ – see Public Information – Item C3) remain relevant and that no new PSA is needed at this time? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item C3**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Consider request that the video PSA “My World” be discontinued.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee reviewed the current video Public Service Announcements for relevance and usefulness and agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information a request that the video PSA “My World” be discontinued. The video can be viewed at https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/my-world-psa
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group agree with the committee's assessment that the PSA “My World” is no longer relevant and should be discontinued? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item C4**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Consider request to approve the development
--------------	---

	of a new PSA in video format that utilizes full-face actors (not members of AA).
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Committee discussed a request made in 2018 “that the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous and the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous approve the development of a new public service announcement in video format that utilizes full-face actors (not members of AA).” This motion originated in CNCA. The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information a request to approve the development of a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) in video format that utilizes full-face actors (not members of AA).
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that there is a need for a public service announcement with the full faces of actors being shown? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review draft language addressing anonymity and safety proposed for the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A 2018 Advisory Action to develop language reflecting that AA’s anonymity traditions are not a “cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior,” has resulted in the proposed addition to the pamphlet: “Q. Is it okay to call the proper authorities if I witness inappropriate or even criminal behavior at a meeting? A. Groups strive to provide as safe an environment as possible in which members can focus on sobriety, and, while anonymity is central to that purpose, it is not intended to be a cloak protecting inappropriate or criminal behavior. Calling the proper authorities in such cases is a serious step meant to preserve the safety of members and does not go against any AA Traditions.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the suggested addition? Do you think it is needed? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to update language in the flyer “AA at a Glance.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The proposal requests that the wording in the last sentence of the section “How AA Members Maintain Sobriety” of the pamphlet “AA at a Glance” be changed from: <i>“Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the suggested Twelve Steps for recovery from alcoholism”</i> to <i>“Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, which are suggested as a program of recovery.”</i> The flyer is currently available at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-1_AAatAGlance.pdf
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think these changes are necessary and this could help maintain consistency throughout our literature? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review the 2018 trustees’ Public Information Committee progress report on the
--------------	--

	usefulness and effectiveness of the AAWS YouTube account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A 2017 Advisory Action created a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on AAWS YouTube pages. Background material includes a YouTube Progress Overview from August 2017-December 2018. The channel currently has published 24 videos. Some of them are also available in Spanish and French. There are 11 videos which are currently published privately or waiting to be uploaded to YouTube.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think the AA YouTube Channel is a success? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review the 2018 trustees' Public Information progress report on the use of Google Ad Words and Google Grants to carry the AA message.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	2017 Advisory Action: A proposal for implementing a Google-for-Nonprofits account for carrying the message of AA to the public be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Committee on Public Information for review. 2017 Conference Advisory Action: AA World Services, Inc. create a Google-for-Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on AAWS YouTube pages. The committee requested that a report including information from website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the AAWS YouTube account be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information. The issue is still being costed.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about extending AA public information by utilizing Google AdWords via a Google Grant? Why?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of PI Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Due to the new GSO ERP database implementation, the hard copy Public Information Kits do not reflect changes that may occur in the summer of 2019. Typically, service kits are updated annually each fall. GSO hopes to have newer online versions of kits on aa.org by spring 2019. The Public Information Kit is here: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-65w_PI_Kit.pdf The Public Information Workbook is here: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/aa-literature/m-27i-public-information-workbook
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do you have any suggestions for the content of the kit or edits to the workbook?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i>.
--------------	--

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This committee will discuss the 2018 General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	What do you think of the Conference Report? Do you find it “user friendly?” How could the Conference Report be improved?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item B**

Agenda Topic	<i>The AA Service Manual</i>, 2018-2020 Edition: Review progress report from AAWS Publishing Department on the redesign of The AA Service Manual.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A 2018 Advisory Action asked that AAWS Publishing Department undertake a thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual with a preliminary draft or progress report to be sent to the 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. A progress report from the group working on this task outlines the goals as ensuring the <i>Service Manual</i> is user-friendly, attractive, inviting, simple, and that it is targeted to the user and focused on relevant information. It was agreed to focus on four areas: 1. Physical format: ideas involve making the manual more like a workbook with the ability to study together and lie flat on a table, changing the binding possibly to spiral or three-hole punch and using only large print versions for larger charts. 2. Design: some ideas include tabs to find sections easier, more logically flowing headings, improved font, use of color, and new graphics. 3. Organization of content: it was agreed that content could be rearranged and consolidated in certain chapters, Bylaws and forms removed, and focus the content so that it is geared toward the GSR. 4. Overall tone of content: it was felt that the tone should be more suggestive and less directive, more upbeat and positive, and it might be a good idea to replace “individual” with “trusted servant” The group also suggested several agenda topics that would be needed to address some changes that would need more discussion or that impacted previous advisory actions. A rough draft with a text outline is expected in fall 2019.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What do you think of the Service Manual? Do you find it “user friendly?” What do you think of the proposed changes and what other ideas do you have for how the Service Manual could be improved?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss AA Directories (Canada, Eastern US, and Western US)
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is an annual item for the committee to discuss. Canadian, Eastern and Western US, and International Directories have been mailed to committee members only.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have directories? Do they find them useful? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” to include related corrections activities.
--------------	---

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The current Bridging the Gap pamphlet is available to view on the GSO website: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-49_BridgingTheGap.pdf This item was submitted by the Panel 67 Delegate from Area 53 (Central and SE Ohio) with regards to Pamphlet P-49 (linked in the background and above), as well as F-183 (request form) and F-184 (volunteer form). He wrote that he encountered confusion in various committees about what the term “bridging the gap” meant and he felt that the pamphlets refer to both treatment and corrections, but not clearly. Suggested language in the proposal included in the background would broaden the subtitle to include “treatment, prisons and other confined institutions.” The full background has a list of Conference committee considerations related to Bridging the Gap (excerpted below): <i>Corrections Committee:</i> 1991, 1992, and 2003: The committee discussed the need for a bridging the gap pamphlet specifically for correctional facility Twelfth Step work, the need for another version of a “bridging the gap” pamphlet for pre-release contact, and a request that a pamphlet about “bridging the gap between prisons and AA” be published to encourage AA contact for newly released members, and for various reasons related to other literature already available, and took no action each time. 2006: The committee noted that some local committees prefer the term “Bridging the Gap” when referring to pre-release contacts and asked that acknowledgement of this local custom be included in the Corrections Workbook. <i>Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:</i> 2004: The committee discussed Bridging the Gap activities and discovered that in some areas the Treatment Facilities Committee and Correctional Facilities Committee do their own Bridging the Gap work and in other areas a separate Bridging the Gap Committee has this responsibility. 2008: The committee discussed a proposal that the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” (BTG), be rewritten to reflect that the BTG program is used in both Treatment Facilities and Corrections service work and took no action. 2014: The committee considered a proposal to revise the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity and took no action. The committee acknowledged the desire in some areas for a generic Conference-approved pamphlet about bridging the gap. While some areas have combined corrections and treatment bridging the gap activities, they remain separate in many others. The sense of the committee was that revising the current pamphlet to include both treatment and corrections might not adequately address the variety of bridging the gap programs that have been developed to address the specific needs of individual areas. Some of these areas have developed service material tailored specifically to explain their local programs.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee feel that the Bridging the Gap pamphlet should be revised to include related corrections activities? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider adding a story from an AA member who is deaf to the pamphlet “Access to AA: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.”
Historical Context; Why	The current pamphlet “Access to AA: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers” is

is it on the Agenda?	available online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-83_AccesstoAA.pdf Currently the pamphlet contains a stories from persons who are “late-deafened” and “hearing-impaired” not a ‘deaf’ member, as such. At the July 2018 meeting of the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (CPC/TA), the chair appointed a subcommittee to pursue efforts to support carrying the message to AA members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. The subcommittee reviewed accessibilities literature and sharing from members of the Fellowship and agreed that the experience from these members highlighted the following: A) The lack of a clear definition between the topics of Deaf versus Hard-of-Hearing in our literature and service material; B) The need to develop additional content and language regarding how AA handles ASL interpretation services; C) The need to detail how AA as a whole is overcoming access barriers of the Deaf versus Hard-of-Hearing; D) The need for references to designated seating for meeting and events to support overcoming access barriers for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing; E) The need to ensure AA members, who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, have full access to participation in all Three Legacies of AA. At their January 2019 meeting, the trustees’ Committee on CPC/TA agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities Committee a proposal from the subcommittee that an additional story from a member who is Deaf be added to the pamphlet “Access to AA: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.” The proposed story entitled “The Inclusion of Deaf Alcoholics in AA” is <u>not</u> included in the full background, but instead there is a “Memo re confidential background.” It is general practice that drafts are kept confidential and reviewed by committee members only (which in this case does include our Delegate), who will be looking at the story to see that it is in accord with AA principles and deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the AA Fellowship. <u>If</u> the Conference Committee decides to put forth a recommendation for a revised pamphlet that includes the story, past experience suggests that rest of the Conference members will be given a copy to review before voting on that recommendation.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that there is a need for a story from a deaf member in the pamphlet? Why or why not? Does your group have any experience to share regarding overcoming barriers to participation for deaf or hard of hearing members?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider updating the pamphlet “AA for the Older Alcoholic – Never too Late.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The current pamphlet “AA for the Older Alcoholic – Never too Late,” is available online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-22_AAfortheOlderAA.pdf In 2018, a subcommittee of the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (CPC/TA) was appointed to identify projects to pursue in order to improve the effectiveness of carrying the AA message and improve cooperation with the Armed Services, including reviewing AA literature which contained stories from members of the military or veterans. At their January 2019 meeting, the trustees’ Committee on CPC/TA agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities Committee a proposal that the pamphlet “AA for the Older Alcoholic –Never Too Late” be revised. Suggestions for updating were: to get more recent stories (replacing ones that reference the Great Depression and WWII); to include information about online meetings; and to add

	information about AA Grapevine and its website.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think the pamphlet “AA for the Older Alcoholic” should be updated with the suggestions outlined above? Why or why not? Does your group have any other suggestions?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the concept of posting anonymity-protected interviews on aa.org with military professionals about their experience with AA
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018, a subcommittee of the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (CPC/TA) was appointed to identify projects to pursue to improve the effectiveness of carrying the AA message and improve cooperation with the Armed Services. One such project would be creating additional audio content to carry the message to military professionals, military personnel and veterans. Five- to ten-minute audio clips could be used in various places, such as GSO’s AA website, an app, LinkedIn, the AAWS YouTube channel, etc. Content could include both AA member stories from Conference-approved literature (such as “AA and the Armed Services” and the new GV book “AA in the Military”) as well as informational content for CPC or PI use. For the informational content, professional interviews with military professionals were discussed by the subcommittee and the trustees’ Committee on CPC/T.A agreed to forward the suggestion to the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities for consideration. These professional friends of AA could be asked their experience working with service members who have issues with alcohol, their experiences with the Fellowship and how they overcame any challenges they might have had in working with AA. See the full background material for a list of proposed interview questions for both chaplains and military medical professionals. A sample interview audio clip was made available to Conference members only.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the idea of posting anonymity-protected audio interviews on the aa.org website with military professionals (chaplains and medical personnel) sharing about their experience with AA?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review draft of proposed Remote Communities Kit.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 2018 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (CPC/TA) consider producing a Remote Communities Kit and Workbook. Staff worked on compiling a draft list of contents and at their January 2019 meeting, and the trustees’ committee agreed to forward the proposed draft of the Remote Communities Kit to the 2019 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities for their review. The proposed list of Kit contents includes text on Remote Communities from the Accessibilities Workbook, the two most recent issues of <i>Remote Communities Communicator</i>, various pamphlets (including AA for the Native North American, AA for the Black and African American Alcoholic, AA and the Armed Services, Do You Think You’re Different, Many Paths to Spirituality, Experience, Strength and Hope: AA for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues, and more), service material for Loners-Internationalists, Online Meetings and Telephone Meetings, Grapevine resources such as

	<i>AA in the Military</i> , and other publications such as Box 459 articles related to Remote Communities. The complete list is available to review in the full background material.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the proposed Remote Communities Kit? Does your group have any other suggestions for content?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and Workbooks for CPC, Corrections, Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference (GSC). Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented. Alternatively, the trustees' Committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review. Members of the Conference Committee then have an opportunity to review proposed changes to a Workbook or Kit during the next GSC. Note: Workbooks and Kits are service pieces, and suggested changes to their content do not become recommendations; rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations. The Treatment Committee Workbook is contained in the Kit and can also be ordered separately. The content list of the Treatment Committee Kit is available on GSO's website and includes links to digital versions of many of the items: www.aa.org/treatmentkit <u>Changes to the Kit:</u> No new items were added to or removed from the Treatment Committee Kit this year. The only changes to the Kit contents were the inclusion of updated items as they were reprinted. This included the revised versions of the AA Guidelines on Sharing the AA Message with the Alcoholic Who is Deaf (MG-13) and the AA Guidelines on Accessibility for All Alcoholics (MG-16).
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any suggestions about items that should be added to or updated in the Treatment Workbook or Kit?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	See Item F above for general information about the process of reviewing and updating Workbooks and Kits. The Accessibilities Workbook and Kit are available through the literature catalog and the list of Kit contents with links to digital versions of many items (including the Workbook) can be found here: www.aa.org/accessibilitieskit Note that the list in the background has a later revision date than the list available online. <u>Changes to the Kit:</u> The 2018 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities suggested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities continue exploring ways to meet the needs of AA members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. In 2018, a subcommittee of the trustees' committee reviewed sharing from AA members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, and, in light of this sharing, considered revising the pamphlet "Access to AA: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers" (See Item B above) and the five pieces of service material focused on accessibilities: AA Guidelines Sharing the AA Message with the Alcoholic Who Is Deaf, Accessibility, AA Guidelines on Accessibility for All

	Alcoholics, and Serving All Alcoholics. The subcommittees made suggestions for changes to the service material that focus on clarifying and differentiating Deaf versus Hard-of-Hearing in accessibilities literature and expanding shared experience from members and committees regarding Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing in accessibilities literature. These suggestions are in the process of being implemented, and the revised service pieces will be added to the Kits when they are updated.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any additional suggestions about items that should be added to or updated in the Accessibilities Workbook or Kit?

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A1**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Northeast Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Candidates have already been interviewed and will be elected by conference delegates according to the procedures laid out in Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A2**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Southwest Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Candidates have already been interviewed and will be elected by conference delegates according to the procedures laid out in Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A3**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Trustee-at-Large/Canada
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Candidates have already been interviewed and will be elected by conference delegates according to the procedures laid out in Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly.

Conference Committee: **Trustees— Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board has been reviewed and recommended. The entire slate will be presented to the General Service Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of trustees and officers is included in the background material, and include seven non-alcoholic trustees, 11 alcoholic trustees, and three trustees to be elected at the Conference (refer to Agenda Topics A1, A2, and A3).

What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly.
--------------------------------------	--

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of AA World Services, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of AA World Services, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended. The entire slate will be presented to the General Service Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of directors of AAWS are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended. The entire slate will be presented to the General Service Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of directors of AA Grapevine are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review draft procedures for partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018, the Conference Committee on Trustees reviewed a proposal to reorganize the AAWS and General Service Boards and took no action, noting that reorganization was not considered necessary at the time. However, the committee requested that procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, the AAWS Board, or the Grapevine Board be developed. A proposed procedure (reviewed by legal counsel) posits that a vote by three-quarters of the Conference could reorganize the Boards, and that an Interim Board could be elected through a series of elections (explained in a step-by-step procedure in the background materials), by which every position is filled at the Annual General Meeting of the General Service Board that immediately follows the Conference. The proposal includes information about how rotation would work, who would be eligible for positions, and who would be able to vote.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the draft procedure to repopulate the Board if a reorganization of the General Service Board were deemed necessary?

Conference Committee: **Archives — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add the 1940s home movie of the co-founders and their wives to the video “Markings on the Journey.”
Historical Context; Why	The Trustees’ Archives Committee agreed to forward a request to consider adding the newly acquired film of Bill, Dr. Bob, Lois, and Anne to the video “Markings on the

is it on the Agenda?	Journey”. Archivist’s Note: This 1940s film of the co-founders and their wives, filmed in the gardens at Stepping Stones (the home of Bill and Lois), was donated to the GSO Archives in 2017 through legal transfer. It is a rare home movie, filmed in Kodachrome and about two minutes in length. As far as we are aware, it is the only moving image of the co-founders and their wives that exists. AAWS, Inc. is the legal copyright owner of the home movie.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Would your group like to add this footage to the video “Markings on the Journey”? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Archives — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review Archives Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and Workbooks for CPC, Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Committee, and Accessibilities and the Archives Workbook are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference. The Archives Workbook can be found online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/archives-committees/m-44i-archives-workbook
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any suggestions about items that should be added to or updated in the Archives Workbook?

Conference Committee: **Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2020 International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	An anonymity protected photo has been taken at each International Convention since the first International Convention in 1950. This has been consistently approved since 1994. Prior to this, the International Conventions Committee met on an ad hoc basis (and therefore did not make advisory actions to the Conference). In the years since, the Conference has agreed to take this photograph.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that an anonymity-protected photograph should be taken at the 2020 International Convention? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider a broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony, similar to the anonymity-protected delayed Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2014, the Conference approved broadcasting the Opening Flag Ceremony for the 2015 International Convention on AA.org. The broadcast ran from July 4-17 and was viewed 448,165 times. Previously, this had been approved by the 2009 Conference for the 2010 International Convention. Given that the 2020 International Convention is next year, the International Conventions committee would like to consider broadcasting the Opening Flag Ceremony, similar to the two most recent Conventions, via our website.
What does the Delegate	Does your group think that this is a valuable practice? Should it continue? Why or why

need to know?	not?
---------------	------

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Regional Forums have always been held as a service by GSO staff and the GSB, with the intent of allowing the general AA membership (not just General Service members) to put a face to their trusted servants. In order to attract interest and first-timers, the Regional Forums committee has discussed several ideas. Some of the more recent ones include: • When possible, providing bilingual written and PowerPoint presentations, especially when the Regional Forum is held in an area with a large population of non-English speaking members; • Providing “meet and mingle” opportunities for Forum attendees to meet with trustees and GSO staff in informal settings (i.e., lunch); • Providing members the opportunity to register earlier than the current two months lead time.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do your members know about Regional Forums? If not, what are the reasons why? What are some things that would attract members of your group to attend a Regional Forum? Did you attend the most recent Pacific Regional Forum in San Jose? If so, what attracted you to attend and how would you recommend it to others?